

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

Dubuque Water Company Pumphouse
Eighth and Pine Streets
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-AV

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-AV-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Dubuque Water Company Pumphouse

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Site Location: Eighth and Pine Streets
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 8.34
Cadastral grid : SW1/4 SW1/4 S19 T89N R3E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'

Present Owner: City of Dubuque
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition: poor / fair

Overall Dimensions: irregular; 1 story

Orientation : southwest

Architectural Plan type : trapezoidal, one-story

Description : Foundation: coursed limestone ashlar perimeter walls with concrete slab floor.

Structure : wood frame with masonry bearing walls.

Ext. walls: common red brick laid in common bond.

Roof : flat composition roof with brick parapet walls and terra cotta tile coping.

Chimneys : none

Windows : painted wood 9/9 double-hung windows with segmental brick heads and stone lug sills.

Openings : single-leaf main entrance in southwest corner with stone lintel and semi-circular brick arch head; single-leaf entrance in north corner with segmental brick arch head; sectional garage door cut into south wall with plain board lintel and enframingent.

Details : corbeled brick cornice; carved name stone inset in brick wall over main entrance:
DUBUQUE WATER CO.

Construction Date : 1888

Architecture style: 19th Century Functional

Physical History : Designed by prominent Dubuque architect F.D. Hyde, this single-story brick building was constructed in 1888 as part of a city-wide improvement of the water system. It was used by the city of Dubuque as a pumping station. Wedged between Eighth and Pine streets and the tracks of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, the building formed an irregularly shaped trapezoid. It housed three steam boilers and was abutted on the north by a frame coal shed. The pumphouse survived at least two major fires in 1894 and 1911, when everything surrounding it was destroyed. In the 1894 blaze, firemen ensconced themselves inside to operate the pumps, spraying the inside

walls with water to combat the intense heat. In July 1911, the pumphouse was reportedly the only building east of the railroad tracks to withstand a fire that destroyed the extensive yards of the Standard and Knapp-Stout lumber companies. By the 1930s the engines were removed and the building used to store equipment. A large rectangular addition (later removed) was built onto its north corner to house supplies. The waterworks building today stands intact, but abandoned and deteriorated.

Significance: Numerous city-wide utilities were initiated or substantially improved in Dubuque during the late 1880s. These included installation of telephone and electrical service, extensive street paving, completion of the high bridge over the Mississippi River for vehicular traffic, construction of inclined railways on the bluff, construction of an electric inner-urban railway system and extension of the underground sewage and water supply systems. This small pumphouse constitutes a modest component of one of these infrastructural systems.

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